



MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for October 28, 2011

Until Love Is Equal lines up Holland businesses to endorse anti-discrimination efforts

From The Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/28/11

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2011/10/until_love_is_equal_lines_up_h.html

HOLLAND — More than three months have passed since the Holland City Council voted 5-4 against expanding the city's anti-discrimination ordinance to include sexual orientation.

Cooley Law School case puts online critics under fire

From the Detroit Free Press, 10/28/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111028/NEWS06/110280378/Cooley-Law-School-case-puts-online-critics-under-fire>

The ability of Michigan residents to criticize anonymously on the Internet is under fire following a ruling this week by an Ingham County judge, a national consumers' rights group said Thursday.

Central Michigan University class to host Quran burning pastor Terry Jones

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/10/central_michigan_university_cl.html

MOUNT PLEASANT — Quran burning pastor Terry Jones will visit a class at Central Michigan University next month on the invite of a journalism professor known for showcasing live wire examples of the breadth of First Amendment protections.

Michigan Islamic Academy vows litigation after Pittsfield Township rejects rezoning for school

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 10/27/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/michigan-islamic-academy-vows-litigation-after-pittsfield-township-board-of-trustees-rejects-rezoning/>

The Pittsfield Township Board of Trustees rejected plans for a new Islamic academy proposed on residential property in the township.

Moving beyond civil rights

From the New York Times, 10/27/11

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/28/opinion/moving-beyond-civil-rights.html?pagewanted=1&r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha212>

Civil rights have transformed American society, and made it fairer and less divided, by outlawing overt racial discrimination and making bigotry socially unacceptable. That success has inspired a host of social groups to press for new civil rights.

MSU awarded grant to study Muslim Americans' use of pop culture

From MLive, 10/26/11

http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2011/10/msu_awarded_grant_to_study_mus.html

EAST LANSING -- Facing "Islamophobia" and widespread hostility, Muslim Americans have adopted cultural techniques to make their voices heard, according to Michigan State University faculty set to use a grant to conduct a yearlong study of Islam-inflected culture.

Bay County businesses give disabled students a glimpse of working life

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 10/25/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/10/bay_county_businesses_give_dis.html

BAY CITY — Students from John Glenn, Bay City Central and Bay City Western high schools learned that smiles and a good attitude are the key to successful employment in the working world Tuesday morning at the Bay Regional Medical Center. Both students and the medical center were participating in Disability Mentoring Day, a part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Local governments oppose proposed legislation limiting civil rights protections

From MLive, 10/25/11

http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2011/10/local_governments_oppose_propo.html

The Lansing and East Lansing City Councils have passed resolutions opposing legislation that would ban municipal civil rights protections that are more expansive than state law.

To fix Detroit region, women's voices must be heard

From the Detroit Free Press, 10/25/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111025/COL10/110250384/Rochelle-Riley-fix-Detroit-region-women-s-voices-must-be-heard-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

It happens frequently.

Business leaders meet to discuss the future of Detroit and Michigan.

A national magazine convenes a roundtable of regional leaders to talk about the future.

Politicians choose their cabinets to help plot the future.

And inevitably, these groups have one thing in common: They're missing a few good women.

Profile: Philanthropist, disability advocate Kate Pew Wolters

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/23/11

http://www.mlive.com/living/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/10/profile_philanthropistdisabili.html

Kate Pew Wolters doesn't have a ton of time to talk today.

ACLU report stirs civil rights concerns about FBI

From the Detroit News, 10/21/11

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20111021/METRO/110210435/ACLU-report-stirs-civil-rights-concerns-about-FBI%E2%80%99s-terrorism-monitoring>

Dearborn— Documents released by the American Civil Liberties Union confirm the FBI's concern about possible terror cells in Michigan, and have reignited the debate over how to balance civil rights with security.

'America's Urban Crisis': Book can be starting point for a talk about race, consequences of color-blind politics

From the Detroit Free Press, 10/21/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111021/OPINION02/110210329/-America-s-Urban-Crisis-Book-can-starting-point-talk-about-race-consequences-color-blind-politics?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

Too many conversations about race in this region have morphed into cocktail-party chatter -- or bus tours by wide-eyed suburbanites -- fueled by the fantasy that if we all just got to know each other a little better, everything would be all right.

Beecher Superintendent upset by racial slurs yelled at cheerleaders during football game in Durand

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 10/20/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/10/beecher_superintendent_upset_b.html

DURAND — Durand Schools Superintendent Cindy Weber said she is sending a written apology to the Beecher School District after someone in the stands shouted racial slurs at Beecher cheerleaders during last Friday's varsity football game between the two schools in Durand.

Fixing indigent defense will take a fight

From the Lansing State Journal, 10/20/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20111021/OPINION01/110210303/Fixing-indigent-defense-will-take-fight?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

Michigan's system for providing legal defense to indigent people is one of the nation's worst.

Wayne State center a tribute to civil rights icon Damon Keith

From the Detroit Free Press, 10/20/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111020/NEWS06/110200448/Wayne-State-center-tribute-civil-rights-icon-Damon-Keith?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

At Wayne State University's new civil rights center named for him, Damon Keith, a longtime federal judge and civil rights icon, said his life's mission could be summed up by the inscription above the entrance.

McMillin targets anti-discrimination ordinances

From the Michigan Messenger, 10/19/11

<http://michiganmessenger.com/53274/mcmillin-targets-anti-discrimination-ordinances>

Activists and civil libertarians are concerned about proposed [legislation](#) from a Republican lawmaker that would gut local non-discrimination ordinances that offer protections to groups not covered by the state's civil rights law.

Mix It Up Day a way for students to cross social and racial boundaries

From the Jackson Citizen Patriot/MLive, 10/18/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2011/10/mix_it_up_day_a_way_for_studen.html

Junior Brooklin Wade and freshman Patrice Maxey typically are not found sharing lunch at da Vinci Institute.

MSU law professor: Socio-economic, environmental problems peak for Native American tribes; solution is accountability

From MLive.com, 10/18/11

http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2011/10/msu_law_professor_socio-econom.html

EAST LANSING -- Domestic violence against Native American women and pollution of American Indian land -- largely at the hands of non-Native Americans -- are just two of many issues a Michigan State University law professor says could destroy the American Indian way of life.

Former U-M police officer sues university for gender discrimination

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 10/18/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/former-u-m-police-officer-sues-alleging-gender-discrimination/>

A former University of Michigan police officer alleges in a lawsuit that the university discriminated against him because of his gender after he suffered an injury on duty that limited his mobility.

Time to pass 'no-reason' absentee voting

From the Detroit Free press, 10/18/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20111019/OPINION01/110190307/Time-pass-no-reason-absentee-voting?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

Michigan is making another attempt to improve convenience for the state's voters. It's time to get this done by approving "no-reason" absentee voting.

More low income residents with housing vouchers are moving to the suburbs, study shows

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/18/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/10/more_low-income_residents_with.html

GRAND RAPIDS -- The stereotype of public housing as an inner city landmark is belied in communities

across West Michigan, where Grand Rapids ranks No. 9 in the nation's metropolitan areas for growth in suburban housing vouchers.

Speakers remember dream, issue challenge to action (with video)

From the Lansing State Journal, 10/17/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20111017/NEWS01/110170314/Speakers-remember-dream-issue-challenge-action?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

WASHINGTON, DC — For many who helped dedicate the new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on Sunday, the towering granite monument is a stark reminder that the civil rights leader's dream of social and economic justice has yet to be realized.

Concept of Social Justice goes beyond service

From the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive, 10/17/11

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/10/concept_of_social_justice_goes.html

Since I run a social justice leadership center, a lot of people ask me: what is social justice leadership? How is it different from leadership writ large? What's the difference between social justice and social service? These are questions I love to consider.

Michigan Cities: The Race Factor

From Dome Magazine, 10/17/11

http://domemagazine.com/craigsgrist/cr101711?utm_source=Dome+e-bulletins&utm_campaign=aa44a34360-Dome_E_Bulletin_10_17+11_9_2011&utm_medium=email

In the first commentary in this series ("[Does Michigan Need Cities?](#)"), I opined that cities matter. Cities are a testament to human progress. That many Michiganians have chosen to leave them over the past two generations leaves me pessimistic about our future. The trend here defies much of human history. It's irrational, pernicious, and terribly draining of talent, investments, and economic vitality that come from close, human interaction.

Amers continue pursuit of justice against the state in federal court

From the Arab American News, 10/16/11

<http://www.arabamericannews.com/news/index.php?mod=article&cat=Community&article=4822>

DETROIT — Flanked by dozens of supporters on Friday, October 7, Dearborn mother Rehab Amer, her husband Ahmed and son Hussein watched as Federal Judge Paul Borman heard arguments as to whether their civil case against the state's Judson Center, Inc. and four workers should proceed.

Celebrate diversity in Farmington, Hills during Heritage Week

From the Observer/Eccentric, 10/16/11

<http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20111016/NEWS06/110160421>

Every year, the Farmington/Farmington Hills community officially celebrates its diversity by hosting a series of events during Heritage Week.

Civil rights panel finds SMART liable in bus mechanic's racial discrimination case

From the Detroit Free Press, 10/13/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111013/NEWS03/11013041/Civil-rights-panel-hear-SMART-bus-mechanic-s-racial-discrimination-case>

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission ruled today in favor of Mazyn Barash, a Farmington Hills bus mechanic who says he was racially insulted and threatened repeatedly at work because of his Iraqi background.

Most colleges not ready to ask about LGBT status

From the Associated Press/Detroit News, 10/13/11

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20111013/SCHOOLS/110130421/1361/Most-colleges-not-ready-to-ask-about-LGBT-status>

Elmhurst, Ill.— Gary Rold didn't necessarily consider himself a pioneer when he decided that Elmhurst College would begin asking applicants about their sexual orientation.

For mixed-race family, old racial tensions remain part of life (with video)

From the New York Times, 10/13/11

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/13/us/for-mixed-family-old-racial-tensions-remain-part-of-life.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th23

TOMS RIVER, N.J. — “How come she’s so white and you’re so dark?” ...

The question tore through Heather Greenwood as she was about to check out at a store here one afternoon this summer. Her brown hands were pushing the shopping cart that held her babbling toddler, Noelle, all platinum curls, fair skin and ice-blue eyes.

Affirmative action ban exacted price on economy, say critics

From Bridge Magazine, 10/13/11

<http://bridgemi.com/2011/10/affirmative-action-ban-exacted-price-on-economy-say-critics/>

Five years after Michigan voted to ban affirmative action by public entities, anecdotes, experts and a handful of hard numbers suggest Michigan’s economy has absorbed hits due to the measure.

Same sex benefits costing state all of \$600,000

From Lansing City Pulse, 10/12/11

<http://npaper-wehaa.com/citypulse/#2011/10/12/?page=8&dpg=1&z=80>

For the last 11 years, Michael Todd of East Lansing and his partner have lived as a married couple. They went through their own personal ceremony. They exchanged rings. Bought a house. Been involved in the community. All of that.

CMU Institutional Diversity office honored for programs, receives \$1.5 million grant for retention program

From the Saginaw News/MLive, 10/11/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/10/cmu_institutional_diversity_of.html

MOUNT PLEASANT — Central Michigan University’s Office for Institutional Diversity was honored for outside diversity initiatives.

Capital Area Michigan Works lands \$4.4 million IT training grant

From the Lansing State Journal, 10/11/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20111012/BUSINESS05/110120316/Capital-Area-Michigan-Works-lands-4-4-million-training-grant?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

Clarke Anderson has hired employees from India and China because, he said, there weren’t enough local qualified applicants for his information technology firm.

Canceled Michigan speech has atheism group considering suing for religious discrimination

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/11/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2011/10/canceled_michigan_speech_has_a.html

ROCHESTER HILLS — The Wyndgate Country Club in Rochester Hills apparently wants nothing to do with prominent biologist and bestselling atheism author Richard Dawkins.

Gov. Rick Snyder calls on Michigan to help with one key change to turn around state

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 10/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2011/10/gov_rick_snyder_calls_on_michi_1.html

GRAND RAPIDS — Before the state's turnaround can be complete, Michigan needs to "modify our culture" of negativity and divisiveness that's come as a result of being in a one-state recession for the last decade, Gov. Rick Snyder said Monday.

Manufacturing sector needs skilled migrants to stay in country, says Dow Chemical CEO

From Booth Mid-Michigan/MLive, 10/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/business/mid-michigan/index.ssf/2011/10/manufacturing_sector_needs_ski.html

Dow Chemical Co. CEO Andrew N. Liveris says the manufacturing sector requires immigration rules that allow more highly-skilled workers to stay in the country, according to a report.

Fair Housing Center receives HUD grant to assist with housing discrimination victims

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 10/9/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/fair-housing-center-receives-hud-grant-to-assist-with-housing-discrimination-victims/>

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently awarded nearly \$1.3 million to Michigan organizations, including \$275,765 to Ann Arbor's Fair Housing Center of Southeast Michigan, to assist people who believe they have been victims of housing discrimination, according to a news release.

Black Student Gets Plea Deal in Race Graffiti Case

From WJBK (Fox 2, Detroit) 10/6/11

<http://www.myfoxdetroit.com/dpp/news/local/black-student-gets-plea-deal-in-race-graffiti-case-20111006-mr>

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — A black student accused of writing graffiti threatening black students at his affluent suburban Detroit high school has received probation after a deal with prosecutors.

Hiring locally for farm work is no cure-all

From the New York Times, 10/5/11

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/05/us/farmers-strain-to-hire-american-workers-in-place-of-migrant-labor.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha23

OLATHE, Colo. — How can there be a labor shortage when nearly one out of every 11 people in the nation are unemployed?

Former police officer investigated for conduct during President Obama's visit to Kalamazoo files federal lawsuit alleging discrimination

From the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive, 10/5/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/10/police_officer_investigated_fo.html

KALAMAZOO — A Kalamazoo Public Safety officer who resigned while under investigation for alleged misconduct during President Barack Obama's June 2010 speech at the Kalamazoo Central High School commencement has filed a federal lawsuit alleging his departure was forced and that he was retaliated against because of his previous complaints of racial discrimination.

Appeals court hears arguments over ouster of EMU counselor

From the Detroit Free Press, 10/5/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111005/NEWS06/110050351/Appeals-court-hears-arguments-over-ouster-EMU-counselor>

Julea Ward could be done with school and working as a counselor, helping people out, her attorney argued Tuesday, if not for Eastern Michigan University's refusal to accept a simple referral request.

'Racially charged' events spark MSU meeting

From the Detroit Free Press, 10/5/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20111005/NEWS06/111005010/-Racially-charged-events-spark-MSU-meeting?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

Michigan State University's Conrad Hall auditorium was filled to capacity Tuesday night, people sitting on the floors and standing in the aisles and more outside the doors pressing to get in.

Flint freshman speaks out during MSU town hall on racism

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 10/5/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/10/flint_freshman_speaks_out_duri.html

FLINT — Aujanee Young, a freshman from Flint, was among Michigan State University students who spoke at a town hall meeting Tuesday to discuss campus racism, according to [this story](#) in the Detroit News.

Supreme Court: Can government get involved in Redford church dispute

From the Associated Press/MLive, 10/5/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2011/10/supreme_court_can_government_g.html

The Supreme Court will decide whether the government can get involved in a workplace dispute between a church and one of its employees.

Students ignorant of civil rights history, study says

From the Detroit News, 10/2/11

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20111002/SCHOOLS/110020308/1026/Students-ignorant-of-civil-rights-history--study-says>

When Julian Bond, the former Georgia lawmaker and civil rights activist, turned to teaching two decades ago, he often quizzed his college students to gauge their awareness of the civil rights movement. He did not want to underestimate their grasp of the topic or talk down to them, he said.

Snyder wants Michigan's 'ethnic communities' to recruit legal immigrants

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 9/30/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/business-review/snyder-wants-michigans-ethnic-communities-to-recruit-legal-immigrants/>

Snyder, in an interview with HDNet's "Dan Rather Reports", outlined more details of a previously announced push to welcome legal immigrants to the state of Michigan. Snyder calls them "job creators."